[15-H - E6267]

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE   August 15, 1974

National Security Decision Memorandum 266

TO: The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Improved Security of Telecommunications

The President has been informed of the opportunities for Soviet inter-
ception of critical unencrypted Government telephone conversations which
may be carried on Washington area microwave links. He has directed
that immediate defensive steps be taken to counter this situation.

In that connection, he has directed that you develop, in coordination with
the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and the Director
of the Office of Telecommunications Policy, a specific program designed to
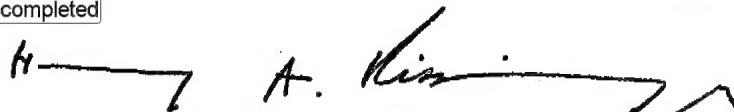reduce significantly the opportunities for such interception.

The program should include near term interim measures including steps to
route critical Government communications on cables or wire lines until
well out of the Washington area. It also should propose more comprehensive
long term measures including but not limited to expansion of the availability
of secure telephones useable over standard telephone lines, and alternative
programs for securing the microwave links in the Washington area. Program
definition for both near term and longer term proposals should include
technical descriptions, costs, and scheduling information assuring highest
priorities.

Details as to specific near term interim measures which can be or are
being instituted and the specific dates on which they will become effective
should be submitted to the President for his consideration not later than
October 1, 1974. Details of longer term measures for this program should
be submitted for the President's consideration not later than January 1, 1975.

NSA review completed

NSC Review Completed

OSD review completed

Henry A. Kissinger

MORI/CDF per
C03335350

cc: The Deputy Secretary of State
     The Director, Office of Management and Budget
     The Director of Central Intelligence
     The Director, Office of Telecommunication Policy

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE /XGDS